



# Lectures on Development and Developmental Disabilities

## How Autism Emerges: Patterns of Onset in the First Years of Life

This presentation will focus on patterns of symptom onset in autism spectrum disorders (ASD), specifically when and how behavioral signs emerge in the first years of life. Emerging results from prospective studies of high-risk groups suggest that dichotomous classification of onset – early onset vs. a regressive course – is inadequate. Ozonoff will summarize existing literature and describe results from a recent prospective study regarding symptom emergence in the first 2 years of life. She will discuss the implications for onset classification systems and clinical screening.

Ozonoff's research focuses on very young children with autism, and the biological and behavioral risk factors for autistic regression. Her clinical interests are the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of people with ASD, with specializations in infant and adult diagnosis and Asperger syndrome diagnosis and treatment. At UC-Davis, she serves as Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and is a member of the M.I.N.D. Institute Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Ozonoff has co-authored more than 50 publications, written three books, and contributed many book chapters to her field. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Baby Siblings Research Consortium of Autism Speaks.



**Sally Ozonoff, Ph.D.**

Endowed Professor of  
Research in Psychiatry  
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**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

4:10 p.m.

Room 241 Kennedy Center/MRL Bldg  
Reception following lecture